Amended 29 March, 2001

CLAIMS

1. A rotatable applicator head including a first part and a second part, the first part being moulded of a plastics material and being disk-like in form with a central recess formed therein, and said second part being secured to said first part capping said recess to define a liquid storage chamber between said first and second parts for storing a liquid to be applied to the surface of a field, garden or crop, and a plurality of applicator wicks extending through a wall of said recess towards the periphery of said first part and having a portion thereof within said recess, characterised in that said wall is moulded about said plurality of applicator wicks.

2. A rotatable applicator head according to Claim 1, wherein a portion of said first part at or near its periphery is moulded about a portion of each applicator wick to secure them against movement relative to said first part during rotation.

3. A rotatable applicator head according to Claim 2, wherein intermediate portions of the first part are moulded about said wicks.

4. A rotatable applicator head according to Claim 1, wherein each wick terminates adjacent the periphery of said first part and a peripheral portion of said first part is moulded about the end portion of each wick thereby forming a cap so that liquid flowing through the wick during rotation of the applicator head is prevented from flowing out the end of the wicks.

5. A rotatable applicator head according to Claim 1, wherein said second part includes a Vee-belt pulley integrally moulded therewith for receiving drive from a tractor power-take-off (PTO) or other drive source.

6. An applicator, including:

a frame assembly adapted to be attached to or drawn by a vehicle such as a tractor;

a support shaft secured to said frame assembly and depending therefrom in use;

a storage tank mounted on said frame assembly or adapted to be mounted on the vehicle;

a rotatable applicator head as defined by any one of Claims 1 to 5 mounted on said shaft for rotation relative thereto, said shaft extending into or through said storage chamber in said applicator head and said shaft having a passage therethrough, said passage being in fluid communication with said storage chamber and said storage tank for supplying liquid to said storage chamber.

7. An applicator according to Claim 6, wherein said shaft includes a second passage therethrough in fluid communication with said storage chamber and adapted to act as a vent for venting said storage chamber.

8. A hand held motor driven applicator including:

drive means having a drive housing and an output shaft;

a motor drivingly connected to said drive means;

a rotatable applicator head drivingly connected to said output shaft, said rotatable applicator head having a first part and a second part, said first part being moulded of a plastics material and being disk-like in form with a central recess formed therein, and said second part being secured to said first part capping said recess to define a liquid storage chamber between said first and second parts for storing a liquid to be applied to the surface of a field, garden or crop, and a plurality of applicator wicks extending through a wall of said recess towards the periphery of said first part and having a portion thereof within said recess, said wall being moulded about said plurality of applicator wicks and there being an access opening in said second part for receiving a supply of liquid;

an elongate handle operatively connected to said drive housing by which a user may maintain said rotatable applicator head proximal to the surface of the field, garden or crop, whereupon said applicator wicks may apply liquid to selected undesired plants upon contact therewith, and

a reservoir mounted on said elongate handle or said drive housing in fluid communication with said liquid storage chamber for supplying liquid to said liquid storage chamber via said access opening while said rotatable applicator head is rotating.

9. A method of constructing a rotatable applicator head for a motor driven applicator of the type having a first part moulded of a plastics material and being disk-like in form with a central recess formed therein and a plurality of applicator wicks extending through a wall of said recess towards the periphery of said first part and having a portion thereof within said recess, including;

cutting a piece of rope wick to a desired length to extend across a face of said first part;

compressing a portion of the rope wick and moulding said recess wall about said compressed portion of said rope wick while said rope wick is compressed, and

allowing the plastics material to set; and

releasing the compression from said rope wick.

10. A method of forming a thermoplastics product with an exposed porous component, including:

providing a component formed from a porous material;

supporting at least some of the porous material in a mould cavity;

compressing a portion of the porous material supported in the mould cavity, the compressing step being achieved by introducing a ram or pusher into the mould cavity and engaging the ram or pusher with the portion of porous material to be compressed;

injecting a thermoplastics material about the compressed portion of porous material; and

releasing the thermoplastics material and the porous material from the mould cavity after the thermoplastics material has set.

11. A method according to Claim 10, including removing the ram or pusher prior to the setting of the thermoplastics material

ART 34 AMDT

whereby the thermoplastics material back-fills the space previously taken up by the ram or pusher as it is withdrawn prior to solidification of the thermoplastics material.

Sub a2

12. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 11, wherein the characteristics of the materials and the parameters of the moulding process, particularly the temperature and injecting pressure, are selected such that some of the thermoplastics material penetrates part-way into the porous material in the moulding step.

13. A method according to any one of claims 9 to 12, including cutting the rope with a hot blade to prevent fraying of the ends, and pressing the cut end into a V-shape.

14. A thermoplastics product with one or more exposed porous components manufactured in accordance with Claim 10.

15. A rotatable applicator head as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawings.

16. An applicator as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawings.

17. A hand held motor driven applicator as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawings.

18. A method of constructing a rotatable applicator head as hereinbefore described with reference to the drawings.

add a3